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The officers in charge of the troops were mainly instrumental in starting this pioneer public library. Their efforts in this direction were nobly seconded by a number of leading settlers. Previous to the year 1847 there was a subscription library of 200 volumes, belonging to private gentlemen, some of them officers in the service of the Hudson's Bay company, under the charge of the late Richard Logan. The first books for the Red River library arrived from England in the summer of 1848, via the Hudson's Bay route. . . It is not stated how many volumes were in the consignment, but old settlers say that there must have been at least 1000 books. The outlay was covered by a grant from the Council of Assiniboia, and a subscription taken up among the settlers. . . The library received a further accession to its shelves, through a bequest from Peter Fidler, (an able but eccentric officer of the Hudson's Bay company) who bequeathed the colonists his private library of 500 volumes, his maps, globes, and astronomical instruments. . . The librarian left for Oregon in 1851, after which the managers became careless, and the last meeting was held in November, 1857. The subsequent history of the library is difficult to trace, but, shortly after 1860, the institution was divided into two sections, one portion being left at Lower Fort Garry for the benefit of settlers in that vicinity, and the other removed to the residence of Magnus Brown, for the use of the community around Winnipeg. It was from the latter that the books in the present Provincial library, belonging to the old institution, were obtained.

Only one library was maintained at the far western posts of the Hudson's Bay Company, so far as I have any knowledge, and that was at Fort Vancouver, on the Columbia River, in the days when the renowned Dr McLoughlin held undivided sway on the Pacific Coast. It is recorded by W. F. Tolmie, an officer of the Company, that in 1833 the idea was conceived by Anderson, one of the clerks at Milbank Sound, and Chief trader Manson, of "establishing a circulating library among the officers of the Company. Anderson, on reaching Fort Vancouver, ventilated the matter. It was readily taken up by Dr McLoughlin and Mr Douglas. A subscription library was formed which did much good for about ten years, soon after which time it was broken up." The officer sub-

scribed, sent the order for books and periodicals to the company's agent in London; the books were sent out, and as everybody had subscribed they were sent to all the forts throughout the length and breadth of the land. The library was kept at Fort Vancouver, subscribers sending for such books as they wanted, and returning them when read. Finally the books were divided among such of the subscribers as cared about having them. The Hudson's Bay Company, by their ships, sent out the "Times" and other leading papers for circulation." "This," adds Tolmie, "was the first circulating library on the Pacific Slope, extending from 1833 to 1843." This is not perhaps strictly correct. Some of you may not be aware that there was quite a considerable library at the Russian fur-trading post of Sitka, about the beginning of the nineteenth century. In 1870, after the transfer of Alaska to the United States, the remains of the collection were sent to Washington, and are now either in the library of the State department, or in the Library of Congress. They included a number of manuscript journals of explorations, log-books, despatches and correspondence, all in Russian, and altogether about sixty volumes. But having now jumped altogether off the map of Canada, it is high time that I brought this rambling paper to an end.

The PRESIDENT: Not all of our brothers of English speech are so accessible to us as those in Canada. We have some that are far across the sea and even at the antipodes, and as we cannot go to them, sometimes they come to us. So we have great pleasure to-night in having with us Mr Herbert Baillie, librarian of the library in Wellington, New Zealand, who will tell us, I am sure, some things about libraries and library work in his country that we do not know and shall be greatly interested to hear.

ADDRESS BY MR BAILLIE

Mr President, ladies and gentlemen. I see your program says "Greetings

from New Zealand." I have much pleasure in conveying greetings from the librarians of New Zealand to you, the librarians of America, and I think I should be conveying the wishes of the public of New Zealand if I also convey greetings from the New Zealand public to you as representing the public of the United States.

I am afraid that my only qualification for reading a paper before this conference is that I have the honor to be the first New Zealander to be present at one of the A. L. A. conferences. Ever since I joined the staff of the Wellington public library in 1902, I have had a goal in view and that was to attend one of these meetings. My wish has been attained and, as a kind of penance, on you, I have been asked to read a paper, and I, without any regard as to your valuable time, consented.

I have decided to give a short account of the way a library is managed in New Zealand, taking my own as typical.

The Wellington public library is a department under the Wellington City Council; a Committee of six councillors is appointed by the Council after each election, which takes place every other year. The Mayor is, *ex-officio*, a member of the Committee, but, as a matter of fact, he seldom attends any of our meetings, although the present Mayor is a strong supporter of the library. Meetings are held fortnightly and any business outside of formal matters is reported to the Council for its approval, which is seldom withheld.

The library is chiefly supported by a rate of one thirteenth of a penny on the unimproved value of land held by the taxpayers. The receipts from this source for the last year amounted to £3100, or \$15,000, out of which we pay for lighting—supplied at cost by the municipality from its electric light stations—insurance, interest on cost of buildings, sinking fund on loans, which were raised to provide the buildings, and cost of all extensions and new buildings in addition to the necessary amounts for books and salaries.

It might be of interest to some to know

that at present a majority of our Committee are what are called "labor members." The chairman, Councillor Maclaren is a worker and secretary of the Wharf laborers' union, and here I may say that their interest in library matters is keen and liberal. I have to thank them for that interest which is responsible for my visit to America. The Committee, with the Council's approval, granted me five months' leave of absence on full pay, to attend this Conference, and, in addition, granted a bonus of nearly 400 dollars towards the expenses.

I stated that the library was chiefly supported by a rate. The other sources of revenue are subscriptions from borrowers, fines, extra books and Government subsidy. Five shillings, (\$1.20) per annum is charged to persons who may wish to borrow books from the Circulation department. The subscription is payable half-yearly in advance and there is no limit to the number of tickets that a subscriber may take out, but he may only take out one book on each ticket. Any resident in town or suburbs may become a subscriber on signing a similar declaration to that required from ratepayers in your towns. No distinction is made between ratepayers and non-ratepayers. A visitor to the city may take out books on depositing \$2.50. He is charged at the rate of six cents for each of the books he may borrow during his stay, the deposit being returned on the return of all books. Extra books may be taken out by subscribers on payment of six cents per book.

The revenue, outside of the tax for the year 1907-08 was £700, or about \$3400. The population of Wellington is 63,000; we have 2311 subscribers and our issues were 128,000. We have two branches in connection with the central library.

It has been the general rule at the central library to place all books over a certain price, say 6s. (\$1.50) in the Reference department, from which no books were issued under any circumstances. I find that it is a difficult matter to break away from the system, and, by placing better books

in the Lending branch, I had to duplicate them for the Reference department or allow the Reference department to lose its former prestige. I might state here that every part of the library, except the loan department is free, so, of course, the Reference department is used a great deal, and what may be termed a "vested interest" created. The Library committee have partly surmounted the difficulty by allowing books to be taken from the Reference department on the payment of a deposit, by ordinary subscribers. The whole matter will be faced again when I return with details as to your practices. Our branches are run on similar lines to yours except as to subscription to Loan department.

One of the undesirable features in our libraries is the importance of the newspapers. There are about 200 newspapers, dailies, tri-weekly and weekly, published in New Zealand, and more than half of these are filed at the Wellington library. They come from all parts of the Dominion and each publisher wants his paper to be filed on a prominent stand, and particularly it is not to be filed with some other "rag" from the same district. We tried to economize by filing papers from the same town together. In such cases, of course, we have to tactfully arrange matters or else disarrange them by declining to accept the paper with conditions. Our country cousins all come to the library, and, with that backwardness that usually characterizes New Zealanders, refrain from making enquiries, wander around the rooms, and if they cannot find the particular paper they require, write at once to the village, arouse the publisher or editor and he at once insists that political feeling should not enter into library management, as if a librarian ever had any political feeling.

The price of books may be of interest to some. Perhaps, I ought not to say much on the subject. I believe we pay less for American fiction than most of you do. Probably the process of "dumping" is accountable for this, but other American books are dear and usually difficult to ob-

tain. English fiction that is published in "Colonial" editions is retailed at 3-6, off which we get a substantial discount, as we do off all books published in Great Britain. A contract is made every two years with the lowest bidder for the full supply of all books required.

The Central library reference and news rooms are open every Sunday from 2:00 to 5 p. m. and from 6:30 to 9:00 p. m. The attendance is usually heavier than on week days. The week day hours of the Central Library are

News room 9:30 a. m. to 10:00 p. m.

Reference 10:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m.

Loan dept 10:00 a. m. to 9:00 p. m.

Assistants' hours average 44 per week.

The system of attendance requires each assistant to be on duty from 9:00 a. m. to 1:00 p. m. and from 6:00 to 10:00 p. m. On alternate days, the other set duty being 9:00 a. m. to 12:00 and 1:00 to 6:00 p. m. On one day in the week, she finishes for the day at 1:00 p. m.

The salary of a lady assistant is fixed at present at a maximum of £100, or about \$485 per year, but I am sure that it would be raised if necessary to keep a good assistant.

Assistants have three weeks holidays each year.

The library and branches are run on the "open access" system—any other system would be unpopular. I proved this to my satisfaction or dissatisfaction when I was appointed to take charge of our first branch. The Chief librarian decided that non-access should be the rule. It being a new library, the subscribers came along all right, but after a year's trial, the system was dropped as it caused great dissatisfaction among the subscribers.

Free lectures were arranged for each winter. One series being given in the Town Hall and another in the Newtown district where they were instituted. As many as twenty lectures have been given in one season. I do not have the least trouble in getting lecturers to help without fee or reward. In some cases, they have come from other parts of the Domin-

ion and their positions range from that of Chief Justice downwards.

A valuable natural history collection has been presented to the Newtown branch and we have to extend the building at a cost of about £4000, or \$19,400 to take it and the additions which are always coming in.

Essay competitions are held in connection with the museum by the district schools. The subjects being either the museum as a whole or some particular class in it. Free subscription tickets are issued by the City to the writers of a certain number of the best compositions.

I am sure that the information I shall take from here will be the means of improving not only my own library, but also those in other parts of the Dominion. As showing the interest displayed in my trip, I shall read an extract from the Wellington "Evening Post", a newspaper having the largest circulation in New Zealand.

A Mission Among Books

The books—legitimate books—are calling, and Mr Herbert Baillie, Chief Municipal Librarian, is harkening to their cry. They are far away in America, and he is to start a voyage on Monday to get the message which they have ready for New Zealanders. The people here may have some slight prejudice against things which they are pleased to term "Yankee notions," but they may be assured that in the department of libraries the United States authorities have not thought and acted in vain. To them a book is not merely a book, so much paper containing more or less print, mummied in a more or less pretty cover. It is a living message, and they take pains to make it circulate among the living. Almost as soon as a boy or girl is able to toddle it may take its tiny feet to a public library and find people there eager to gladden it with those prints so dear to childhood, and ever afterwards the prospective citizen may always find suitable literary nourishment. As far as possible with the means at his disposal, Mr Baillie has made the local libraries set an example to similar institutions in other centres of New Zealand, and luckily his spirit of progressiveness and his desire to make a public library really public have favorably impressed the City Council. Citizens may expect good results from his attendance at the Library

Congress, and his contact with eminent librarians in their own citadels.

A newspaper writer in Wellington, referring to my trip, stated that the American librarians had long since arrived at perfection and there remains no more to be learned—"there was not much to learn anyway—the whole system can be grasped after the perusal of two or three books and reports."

Mr BOWKER: In view of the action of the authorities of the Wellington (New Zealand) library, it is quite proper that this Association should express its appreciation and thanks to those authorities for sending a representative to attend this conference. I therefore move such a vote and that the Secretary be requested to transmit the expression of our appreciation and thanks to the Wellington authorities.

Mr RANCK: Mr President, I second that motion.

Unanimously carried.

The PRESIDENT: This completes the program for this evening and I therefore declare the first general session of this conference closed.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION

(Wednesday Morning, June 24th, 1908)

The PRESIDENT called the convention to order at 9:30 o'clock and

The Secretary then read the minutes of the meeting of the Council. (see p. 409)

Mr R. R. BOWKER: Mr President, I would like to suggest that the Secretary state briefly to the Association the essential points of the report of the Committee on Constitutional revision which was discussed at the Council meeting, so that the Council can have the benefit of any suggestions from the membership.

The PRESIDENT: Mr Andrews, in behalf of the Committee, will give the report.

Mr C. W. ANDREWS: We have held two meetings, both long and protracted and have received a number of suggestions besides those that were specifically

referred to it at the Asheville meeting. Upon consideration—upon, I think, I may fairly say, due consideration, we have formally recommended a number of changes which may be divided into three classes: those affecting the composition of the Executive board, those affecting the composition of the Council, their duties, and then a few minor corrections of infelicities or inaccuracies and one failure in grammar of the Association—which I think ought to be eliminated no matter what you do with the rest of the scheme. The desire of the movers of the resolution which was referred to us at Asheville was to secure a more permanent executive body and this Committee found itself unanimously and formally in agreement with them and they asked the advice of all the members of the Association who were present at the Atlantic City meeting and found practically the unanimous agreement, that we need a more permanent body. Therefore they have provided an executive body of nine, consisting of the president, the two vice-presidents and six elected members, two to be elected each year. On the other hand, they have felt that the Council should become what it was really intended to be, a debating body, and they found that the Institute would give us its existence and retain to the Association practically the whole membership of the library profession if we would enlarge the Council sufficiently to make it inclusive of the interests of the library work. Therefore they have provided for a Council consisting of 25 members elected by the Association at large as at present 25 to be elected by the Council as a body, all the ex-presidents of the Association and the Executive board for the year. This makes a total of something like 75 or 80 members and will enable us to discuss and pronounce with some authority on the questions which should come before the Council of the Association. The division of duties is very simple. They have left the business to the Executive board and the debating and questions of policy to the Council. We have made

very careful examination of each article of the constitution and have tried to bring them into uniformity with these ideas. If the Council and Association, for both should, will approve of the general ideas, I doubt if there would be any necessity for a scrutiny of the details and verbiage, but the ideas ought to be in your minds and you ought to be prepared to vote on them if the Council approves of the scheme and submits it to you at a later session.

The PRESIDENT: The Association of course understands that the constitution is not before it for approval at the present time, as it has not yet been finally considered by the Council and referred to the Association. There will be an opportunity, however, for the expression of individual opinion during a few minutes if such is desired.

Mr F. P. HILL: I understand that the proposed revision of the Constitution has been printed, and I would like to ask whether it would not be possible to put the copy somewhere so that all the members might see it and make suggestions to the Council, following out the idea that Mr Bowker has spoken of?

Mr ANDREWS: Owing to the kindness of H. W. Wilson Co., we have this in print, and there are copies enough for the Council and for posting, as Mr Hill suggests.

The PRESIDENT: An opportunity will be given about the middle of the next session for the introduction of any miscellaneous business that may need to come before the Association.

The librarian is so much occupied about thoughts of how to distribute books and how to make them more available to the general reader that we sometimes forget to consider the books themselves, and we are to have an opportunity this morning to listen to a number of short papers and talks about books, some of them about classes of books in general and a little about book methods and then again about individual books. This program has been arranged with a great deal of pains

by Mrs Fairchild and we are sorry that she is not to be with us this morning. The carrying out of her plans has been entrusted to the charge of Miss Kroeger.

The first paper to which we are to listen is one on "The dear and dumpy twelves" by Mr HENRY E. LEGLER.

THE DEAR AND THE DUMPY TWELVES; or THE LIBRARI- AN'S SHELF OF BOOKS

"Let me love the insides of books with Doctor Johnson, and have respect unto their outsides with David Garrick"—*De Witt Miller's bookplate inscription.*

Once upon a time, long, long ago, there lived in the goodly city of Strassburg a bespectacled German professor whose name was Sebastian Brandt. (His biographers do not mention spectacles, but a German professor minus a pair athwart his nose is inconceivable.) Looking upon the world through these glasses, the worthy doctor of philosophy marveled greatly that every person whom he saw, belonged to the tribe of fools. He gathered into one great vessel the various kinds of fools his observant eyes beheld, and sent them adrift in his heavily-laden "Narrenschiff." His story of the "Ship of fools" and its motley-minded crew has ever since been deemed descriptive of everyone but oneself, and perhaps that's why there's so much relish found in its ungente satire.

Now this remarkable voyage occurred full four hundred years ago. There are some who profess to see in the opening verse a reference to a certain type of librarian. Manifestly this conclusion is erroneous, for the profession was non-existent then; the Alexandrian library—if there ever was one—had long since gone up in smoke, library schools had not been invented, and Mr Carnegie had not then begun his desperate and futile attempt to die poor. Nor is it likely that the professor's spectacles had the magic property of prophetic vision, for the worthy professor used them merely to mirror the men of his own time. There are those,

of course, who aver that in the mirror wherein the men of Sebastian Brandt's time saw themselves reflected, "the men of all times can recognize themselves," and that "a crew is never wanting to man this old, weather-beaten but ever-seaworthy vessel." At any rate, 'tis not uninteresting to recall in abridgement from the English version, the quaintly phrased autobiography of the "first fole of all the hole navy."

Styll am I besy bokes assemblynge
For to haue plenty it is a plesaunt
thyng

In my conceyt and to haue them ay in
honde—

But what they mene do I nat vinderstonde.
But yet I haue them in great reuerence
And honoure sauynge them from dust and
imperfection

By often bruschynge, and moche dyly-
gence.

Full goodly bounde in plesaunt couerture
Of domas, satyn, or els of veluet pure
I kepe them sure ferynge, lyst they sholde
be lost,

For in them is the connyng wherein I
me best

* * * * *

For all is in them, and no thyng in my
mynde.

* * * * *

Lo in lyke wyse of bokys I haue store
But fewe I rede, and fewer understande.
I folowe nat theyr doctryne nor theyr
lore—

It is ynoughe to bere a boke in hande,
It were to moche to be it suche a bande
For to be bounde to loke within the
boke—

I am content on the fayre couerynge to
loke.

Why sholde I stody to hurt my wyt
thereby

Or trouble my mynde with stody ex-
cessyue,

Sythe many ar whiche stody right besely
* * * * *

* * note wel theyr diligence;

Ensue ye theyr steppes: obtayne ye such
fame,

* * * * *

* * But nowe to fewe suche be.

Therefore in this Shyp let them come
rowe with me.

Doubtless it was from this suggestion that some one was moved to write these warning words: "The librarian who reads